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1927
No. 74
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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Mass.: LICENSING BOARD
FOR THE
CITY OF BOSTON
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1927



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, December 1, 1927.

To His Excellency ALVAN T. FULLER, *Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

SIR:—The Licensing Board for the City of Boston respectfully submits its twenty-second annual report covering the year ending November 30, 1927.

PERSONNEL OF THE BOARD.

DAVID T. MONTAGUE, *Chairman*, ARTHUR J. SELFRIDGE, MARY E. DRISCOLL, constitute the present Board.

FINANCIAL.

Receipts and Disbursements for the year ending November 30, 1927.	
Miscellaneous licenses	\$55,503 00
Liquor licenses	2,035 00
Miscellaneous receipts	251 20
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	\$57,789 20
Expenses of the board, salaries, rent, lights, etc.	31,968 23
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Excess receipts over expenditures	\$25,820 97

LICENSES GRANTED BY THE BOARD.

1. Third class liquor, Retail druggists	235
2. Fourth-class liquor, Wholesale dealers	6
3. Fifth class, Industrial alcohol	2
4. Soft drinks	2,575
5. Innholders and Common Victualers	2,725
6. Lodging houses	3,812
7. Intelligence offices	172
8. Sale of Firearms	24
9. Billiard and Pool tables and Bowling alleys	323
10. Skating rinks, Ferris wheels and Merry-go-Rounds	5
11. Picnic groves	2
12. Sunday sale of ice cream, confectionery, soda water and fruit	2,349
13. Amusement, required by chap. 299, Acts of 1926	153

Total number of applications acted on during the year:

Granted 12,383
Rejected 375

12,758

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HEARINGS.

906 Hearings have been held by the Board during the year as follows:

Kind of License	Number	Action Taken.
Third-class druggists	1	Revoked.
Third-class druggists	3	Granted after hearing.
Third-class druggists	1	Rejected after hearing.
Third-class druggists	2	Dismissed.
Innholders	3	Revoked (sentence suspended).
Innholders	7	Dismissed.
Innholders	1	Restrictions remain.
Common victualers	56	Revoked.
Common victualers	35	Revoked (sentence suspended).
Common victualers	1	Suspended 2 months.
Common victualers	4	Suspended 2 weeks.
Common victualers	10	Suspended 1 week.
Common victualers	1	Suspended 4 days.
Common victualers	3	Suspended 3 days.
Common victualers	1	Suspended 2 days.
Common victualers	38	Placed on file.
Common victualers	25	Granted after hearing.
Common victualers	23	Rejected after hearing.
Common victualers	8	Dismissed.
Common victualers	5	Complaint Board of Health, suspended till place cleaned up.
Fruit, etc.	34	Revoked.
Fruit, etc.	21	Revoked (sentence suspended).
Fruit, etc.	2	Suspended 1 month.
Fruit, etc.	6	Suspended 2 weeks.
Fruit, etc.	6	Suspended 1 week.
Fruit, etc.	95	Placed on file.
Fruit, etc.	23	Granted after hearing.
Fruit, etc.	19	Rejected after hearing.
Fruit, etc.	2	Dismissed.
Billiard and Pool	4	Revoked.
Billiard and Pool	6	Revoked (sentence suspended).
Billiard and Pool	3	Suspended 1 week.
Billiard and Pool	1	Suspended 2 weeks.
Billiard and Pool	1	Suspended 3 weeks.
Billiard and Pool	2	Placed on file.
Billiard and Pool	10	Granted after hearing.
Billiard and Pool	5	Rejected after hearing.
Billiard and Pool	3	Dismissed.
Billiard and Pool	1	Miscellaneous.
Lodging houses	34	Revoked.
Lodging houses	38	Revoked (sentence suspended).
Lodging houses	29	Placed on file.
Lodging houses	7	Granted after hearing.
Lodging houses	5	Rejected after hearing.
Lodging houses	40	Dismissed.
Lodging houses	1	Suspended indefinitely.
Lodging houses	1	Miscellaneous.
Soft drinks	51	Revoked.
Soft drinks	30	Revoked (sentence suspended).
Soft drinks	2	Suspended 1 month.
Soft drinks	7	Suspended 2 weeks.
Soft drinks	1	Suspended 3 weeks.
Soft drinks	10	Suspended 1 week.
Soft drinks	93	Placed on file.
Soft drinks	27	Granted after hearing.
Soft drinks	18	Rejected after hearing.
Soft drinks	6	Dismissed.

Kind of License	Number	Action Taken.
Intelligence offices	2	Granted after hearing.
Intelligence offices	1	Rejected after hearing.
Entertainment, etc.	8	Granted after hearing.
Entertainment, etc.	4	Rejected after hearing.
Entertainment, etc.	9	Restrictions imposed.
Entertainment, etc.	3	Revoked.
Entertainment, etc.	2	Revoked (revocation suspended).
Entertainment, etc.	2	Placed on file.
Entertainment, etc.	1	Suspended 2 days.
Entertainment, etc.	1	Suspended 1 month.
Clubs	1	Dismissed.

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NOTE.—In 38 cases the Board suspended the license and on the termination of the suspension the license was revoked and the revocation suspended.

TABLE 1.—LIQUOR.

The following is a classified list of the licenses in force Nov. 30, 1927:—

Fourth-class dealer,	3	Fifth-class license,	2
Fourth-class druggist,	3	Third-class druggist,	215
<i>Number of Licenses Issued and Amount paid into the Treasury from Dec. 1, 1926 to Dec. 1, 1927.</i>			

3 fourth-class dealers, at \$300	\$900 00
3 fourth-class druggists, at \$300	900 00
233 third-class druggists, at \$1	233 00
2 fifth-class licenses, at \$1	2 00
Total	\$2,035 00

TABLE 2.—COMMON VICTUALERS AND INNHOLDERS.

Common Victualers.

Applications granted	2,652
Places licensed	2,148
Canceled:	
Surrendered	355
For nonpayment	93
Rejected	448
Revoked	111
Transferred	56
Fees collected ^{1 2 3}	64
	\$12,775 00

Of the licenses granted, 16 were for lunch carts,
12 of which are in actual operation.

¹ 5 licenses 1926 paid.
² 3 licenses unpaid.
³ 6 licenses, fee refunded.

INNHOLDERS.

Applications granted	73
Places licensed	67
Canceled:	
Surrendered	4
For nonpayment	2
Fees collected	6
	\$355 00

The fee fixed by Statute is not to exceed \$5.

TABLE 3.—BILLIARD, POOL AND SIPPIC TABLES AND BOWLING ALLEYS.

Applications granted	286
Clubs	37
	323

Places licensed		257
Places licensed (clubs)		37
Canceled:		
Surrendered	12	
For nonpayment	5	17
Rejected		21
Revoked		4
Transferred		6
Withdrawn		7
Additional		10

Number of Tables and Alleys.

Billiards		393
Pool		1,256
Bowling alleys		778
Canceled for nonpayment		5
5 licenses for 15 tables and 16 alleys		
Fees collected		\$11,980 00
The fee established by the Board is \$5 for each table and alley.		

TABLE 4.—INTELLIGENCE OFFICES.

Applications granted		172
Places licensed		154
Canceled:		
Surrendered	Class 1—3	
For nonpayment	Class 1—2	
	Class 2—1	
	Class 3—1	7
Rejected		8
Transfers granted		12
Fees collected		\$8,776 00
Of the applications granted		
84 were first class, \$6,300.		
70 were second class, \$2,450.		
13 were third class, \$26.		

The fee established by the Board is \$75 for a first-class license; \$35 for a second-class license; and \$2 for a third-class license.

11 licensed places hold two classes of licenses.

TABLE 5.—PICNIC GROVES.

Applications granted		2
Places licensed		2
Fees collected		\$10 00
The fee established by the Board is \$5.		

TABLE 6.—SUNDAY SALE OF ICE CREAM, CONFECTIONERY, SODA WATER OR FRUIT.

Applications granted		2,349
Places licensed		2,009
Canceled:		
Surrendered	224	
For nonpayment	81	305
Rejected ¹		102
Transferred		52
Transfers rejected		5
Withdrawn		63
Revoked		34
Fees collected ²		\$11,340 00
The fee fixed by Statute is not to exceed \$5.		

¹ License reconsidered and rejected.

² Unpaid license of 1926 collected.

TABLE 7.—LODGING HOUSES.

Applications granted		3,812
Places licensed		3,336
Canceled:		
Surrendered	372	
For nonpayment	69	441
Rejected		42
Revoked		35
Transferred		90
Withdrawn		1
Fees collected ^{3 4}		\$7,494 00
The fee established by the City is \$2.		

³ 5 licenses 1926 paid.⁴ 1 license unpaid.

TABLE 8.—MERRY-GO-ROUND, FERRIS WHEELS, ETC.

Applications granted		5
Places licensed		5
Rejected		1
Fees collected		\$90 00
The fee established by the Board is \$1 for each class for each day licensed.		

TABLE 9.—RETAIL VENDORS OF SOFT DRINKS.

Applications granted		2,575
Places licensed		2,223
Canceled:		
Surrendered	220	
For nonpayment ¹	84	304
Rejected		85
Revoked		51
Transfers granted		52
Transfers rejected		5
Withdrawn		74
Fees collected ²		\$2,493 00
The fee is established by law, not to exceed \$1.		

¹ 1 unpaid license 1926.² 1 unpaid license 1926.

TABLE 10.—FIREARMS.

Applications granted		24
Places licensed		24
Transferred		1
Fees collected		\$120 00
The fee established by the Board is \$5.		

TABLE 11.—ENTERTAINMENT, ETC.

Applications granted:	Innholders	29
	Common victualers	110
	Soft drinks	7
	Clubs ¹	7
Canceled:	Common victualers	11
Rejected:	Innholders	2
	Common victualers	2
	Club	1
Transferred:	Club	1
Revoked:	Common victualers	2
	Club	1
Places in operation		139
Fees collected		\$70 00
The fee established by the Board is \$5.		

¹ 1 club granted for balance of year 1926-1927 and renewed 1927-1928.

1 club granted as a club, changed to common victualer later.

1 club revoked, leaving 4 clubs in existence Dec. 1.

Under the Statute a person conducting entertainments, etc., in connection with the sale of drinks, shall pay a fee fixed by the licensing authorities at not more than \$5, but holders of innholder and common victualer licenses are exempt from this fee.

TABLE 12.—MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS.

Recording fees	\$241 00
Sale of Firearms Record books	10 20
Total amount received and paid into the treasury on account of miscellaneous licenses and receipts	\$57,789 20

TABLE 13.—HOLDERS OF LICENSES ARRANGED ACCORDING TO NATIVITY.

	Lodging Houses	Common Victualers	Inn- holders	Retail Vendors of Soft Drinks	Fruit Ice Cream etc.	Fire- arms
Albanian	3	32	..	64	63	..
Algerian	..	1	..	..	..	..
American	1,750	1,082	73	698	568	9
Arabian	..	..	..	..	1	..
Armenian	10	42	..	117	120	..
Austrian	11	18	..	12	16	..
Belgian	9	2	..	2	1	..
Canadian	784	127	2	64	67	..
Czecho Slav.	3	..	..	..	..	..
Chinese	..	35	..	2	..	..
Danish	4	2	..	1	1	..
Dutch	8	3	..	2	1	..
English	151	37	..	49	50	1
Finlander	5	2	..	..	..	..
French	22	9	3	6	5	..
German	36	32	1	21	16	..
Greek	30	395	..	211	204	..
Hebrew	..	..	..	4	2	..
Hungarian	1	1	..	3	2	..
Irish	559	105	1	140	126	3
Italian	31	282	7	534	473	..
Japanese	2	2	..	..	..	..
Latvian	1	1	..	..	..	..
Lithuanian	10	20	..	42	38	..
Norwegian	11	4	..	4	7	..
Polish	53	29	..	55	49	..
Porto Rican	1	..	..	..	..	..
Portuguese	19	14	..	11	9	..
Roumanian	2	2	..	6	7	..
Russian	32	368	2	484	482	10
Scotch	62	13	..	11	11	1
So. American	..	1	..	..	..	..
Spanish	7	3	..	3	3	..
Swedish	88	16	..	7	4	..
Swiss	1	..	..	2	..	..
Syrian	162	43	..	81	92	..
Turkish	7	18	..	20	21	..
Ukranian	..	1	..	1	2	..
West Indian	32	4	..	4	4	..
	3,907	2,746	89	2,661	2,445	24

Expenditures from Dec. 1, 1926, to Dec. 1, 1927.

PERSONAL SERVICE.

Commissioners, Secretary and Permanent employes	\$25,162 38
Temporary employes	364 42

SERVICES OTHER THAN PERSONAL.

Printing and binding	50 00
Light	188 54
Rent	4,500 00
Communication	310 84
Cleaning	12 41
General plant repairs	64 45

EQUIPMENT.

Office	127 61
Library	28 25

SUPPLIES.

Office	\$1,112 43
Food and ice	43 00
Laundry, cleaning, etc.	3 90
Total	\$31,968 23

LEGISLATION.

The legislature, during the year last passed, has made no change in the laws relating to the character of licenses granted by the Board except that Chapter 326 of the Acts of 1927 adds machine guns to the firearms provided to be sold by licensed dealers only.

SALE OF FIREARMS.

The number of licenses issued to dealers in firearms is less than in previous years. The rule adopted by the Board that air pistols are firearms within the meaning of the law, and that in the purchase of firearms there is no distinction between a resident and non-resident purchaser, from a licensed dealer has been acquiesced in by the Board's licensees.

ENTERTAINMENT LICENSES.

Chapter 299 of the Acts of 1926.

This act radically changed the law relating to the granting of licenses for entertainments given by hotels, restaurants and other establishments where food and drink are sold and is so recent and so often misunderstood that the principal material portion of said act applicable to the City of Boston, and the terms and conditions of the licenses granted are again published, viz.:

SECTION 183A. "No innholder, common victualer or person owning, managing or controlling a cafe, restaurant or other eating or drinking establishment shall, as a part of his usual business, offer to view, set up, set on foot, maintain or carry on a concert, dance, exhibition, cabaret or public show of any description at which food or drink or other refreshment is sold for cash, or in connection with which, after free admission, music or other amusement is provided or furnished upon payment or deposit of money, either as a cover charge or in payment for food, drink or other refreshment, unless and until a license therefor, to be exercised on week days only, has been issued by the licensing authorities, who may upon written application and upon such terms or conditions as they may prescribe, grant such a license for any and all of the purposes hereinbefore described and may, after written notice to the licensees, suspend or, after hearing revoke the same."

In accordance with the act, the Board has established the following terms and conditions which are made a part of the license and printed thereon.

1. The licensed premises shall be subject to inspection by the police of the City of Boston and the duly authorized agents of the Licensing Board.

2. No intoxicated person shall be allowed nor shall the sale, distribution or drinking of intoxicating liquors be permitted, on the licensed premises.

3. Improper dancing by patrons or objectionable entertainment shall not be permitted. The entertainment and dancing must be confined to some space provided for the purpose.

4. Booths hereinafter erected, in which refreshments are to be served, shall not be more than 4 feet 6 inches in height, and a plan showing the location and character of the booths must be submitted to the Licensing Board for its approval.

5. The licensed premises must be well lighted at all times.

6. The Licensing Board reserves the right to change or add to the foregoing terms and conditions after notice to the licensee.

The charter of a social club usually gives it the right to provide refreshment and entertainment for its members.

Prior to the enactment of the foregoing statute, the Licensing Board had no control over a club having a charter from the Commonwealth unless it had applied for and received some one of the various licenses issued by it.

At the date of this report, three chartered clubs hold both common victualer and entertainment licenses, and four chartered clubs hold entertainment licenses.

SAFETY OF LODGING HOUSES.

Because of the danger to life from fire, applications for lodging house licenses are referred to the Building Department as to means of egress in the event of fire, and during the past year much progress has been made in equipping buildings so used with fire escapes or other approved means of egress.

GAMBLING DEVICES.

To circumvent the law relating to gambling devices there has been introduced a new vending machine for the sale of mints in packages. Each nickle inserted in this vending machine delivers one package of mints, which is of little value. In addition to the delivery of a package of mints the machine may deliver tokens up to the number of twenty. From the gross number of nickles deposited in a machine the cost of the mints is subtracted and the difference divided fifty-fifty between the owner and the licensee of the machine. By a private arrangement between the owner of the machine and the licensee, these tokens may be received by the licensee for the purchase of the merchandise and are redeemed by the owner of the machine. This in the opinion of the Board makes these machines gambling devices and consequently illegal. Since the first of January 1927 many cases have been brought before the Board involving the use of these machines, and the Board has ruled that the continued possession of such a machine by its licensee will void his license.

GENERAL MATTERS.

The Board again expresses its appreciation of the faithful and efficient service rendered by its secretary and clerks. The relations of the Board with the various departments of the city with which it comes in contact are cordial and harmonious.

DAVID T. MONTAGUE,
ARTHUR J. SELFRIDGE,
MARY E. DRISCOLL,

Licensing Board for the City of Boston.

